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L. D. YOUNG, JR.
Director

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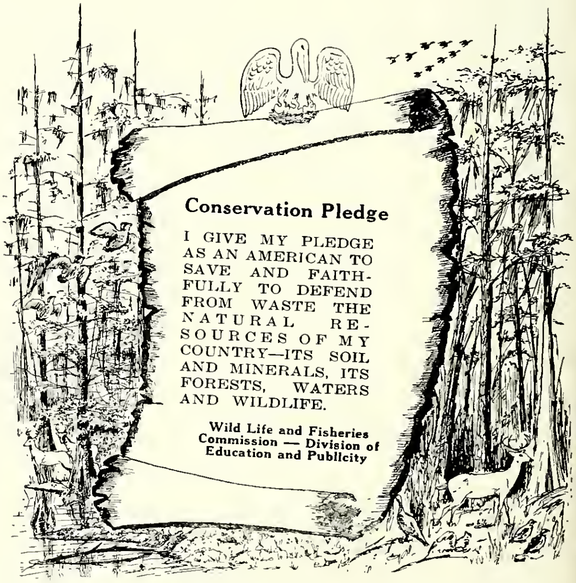

Conservation Pledge

I GIVE MY PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO DEFEND FROM WASTE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF MY COUNTRY—ITS SOIL AND MINERALS, ITS FORESTS, WATERS AND WILDLIFE.

Wild Life and Fisheries Commission — Division of Education and Publicity

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Bayou Browsing .... Inside Back Cover

COVER: Mose Weems and Al Morgan haul a yellowfin tuna over the rail of the OREGON, U.S.F.W.S. exploratory fishing vessel, just off our own Louisiana coast. *Photo by Gresham.*

Message from the Director . . .

L. D. YOUNG, Jr.
Director

Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission

Professional wildlifers, foresters and other conservationists who derive their livelihoods endeavoring to assure the future of our natural resources seldom receive words of praise from within their own families—we consider it "our duty" and nothing more. We'd like to pass out a few bouquets to the men of the Louisiana Forestry Commission who fought so diligently to preserve the woodlands and other game habitats during the fire season just ended in 14 parishes. Answering a call above and beyond the line of duty, representatives of this particular state agency are to be commended for the many hours spent in efforts to save our vast valuable natural resources.

There's another army of interested individuals who should receive thanks for their cooperation . . . cooperation in staying out of the woods when requested to do so . . . aiding in reporting fires, and other work for which they receive no pay. These are the Louisiana hunters who had 13 days taken from their shooting time during the closed seasons and who even agreed that the season should be closed in the fire emergency. It's not an easy thing to close areas and deprive outdoorsmen of the sports to which they are entitled. It was with a great deal of hesitancy that we acted during a period when gun pressure was at its peak throughout Louisiana. We humbly thank the gunners of the state for their fine spirit of cooperation and add that the efforts of our enforcement personnel should not go unnoticed as these bouquets are distributed.

In the words of Jim Mixon, state forester, "never before has there been evidenced such a spirit of cooperation between two state departments as during the fire threat just ended." We echo those sentiments, too, Jim.

Managing Louisiana’

by Dr. Lyle S. St. Amant,
Supervisor, Freshwater Fisheries Section,
Fish and Game Division

Photos by Jack Britt

1. The crew unloads at boat landing nearest sampling site.

Louisiana’s fresh water fisheries are one of its mo
valuable resources. The vast acreage of water in o
state, the general fertility of these waters, and t
annual harvest of both sport and commercial fish
place Louisiana in the top rank of fishing states
the country. The task of maintaining excellent fis
ing in Louisiana, however, is one of considerat
proportion. In past years, the sportsmen and wi
life and fisheries department personnel have be
prone to take the general excellence of fishing
Louisiana for granted. Because of a lack of fun
and a seeming overabundance of water and fisheri
production, little has been done toward studying
attempting to manage the vast fresh water fisheri
industry of the state. The failure to accompli
necessary studies in past years and the failure
keep track from year to year of the production
the various waters has resulted in some loss
production, and has certainly put us several yea
behind most states in establishing a good fish ma
agement program. Losses in fisheries producti
have resulted primarily from ecological changes
our waters—incorrect water level controls; turbi
ity; cyclic changes and duration of high water
and, straightening, dredging and desnagging ma
of our natural streams. Had we known enough abo
how these factors affected fish production, as w
as the original production of our various wat
types, much could have been done to prevent or
lessen such losses.

In recent months a long-range freshwater fisheri
program has been set up to study, manage and a
tempt to develop the state’s more than 4,000,0
acres of water. The primary objectives of the pl
are:

-resh Water Fisheries

1. To maintain and protect the excellent fresh-water fisheries of the state.
2. To manage the fisheries of the state of Louisiana in order to obtain an equitable and maximum harvest compatible with the production.
3. To increase production in areas where development practices are applicable.
4. To develop isolated waters by making them more accessible to the public.

n order to accomplish the above objectives, the ieries program has been designed around three mary phases; namely, research, management and elopment. In the normal course of events rerch and investigation necessarily come first, in er that proper management and development hniques may be devised and applied. At the pres- time this new program has eleven projects in ration, of which seven are investigative in nature; ee deal with management, and one with development. As our knowledge increases and more funds ome available, more projects of the management l development types will be added. At present, re are eight such projects already outlined and iting to be done. The following table outlines the sting projects:

EXISTING PROJECTS

esearch Projects	Management Projects	Development Projects
tatewide Fish- ries Survey	1. Lake and Pond Management	1. Establishment of Public Access to Points and Landings on Fishing Waters
ffects of Pollution n Fish Popu- tions	2. Hatchery Production of Young Fish	
tatistical Survey f Fish Harvest	3. River Basin Studies	
esearch in Water Weed Control		
arm Pond Studies		
ffects of Engi- eering Projects n Productivity f Water		
tudies of Para- ites in Fish		

2. Considerable equipment is necessary to carry out a complete job.

3. The sample area is accurately located and recorded for study.

4. The sample area is completely fenced off by means of a small-mesh seine.

It is obvious that all the projects listed above cannot be discussed in this article. Most of them are of sufficient importance and interest to warrant individual articles, and they will be published from time to time in the CONSERVATIONIST. For the present, let's take a look at one of our more interesting and important projects: The Statewide Inventory of Waters and Fish Populations.

The statewide inventory is a three-year study designed to answer many of the more fundamental questions about fisheries in our state. Its basic aims are:

1. To classify and list all of the different types of water in the state.
2. To determine and compare production of the various water types.
3. To determine the growth rate and amount of reproduction of important fish species.

5. The chemical used to poison the fish is distributed as evenly as possible within the sample area. Note that the sample area is quite small compared to the total water area.

4. To discover and outline the many fisheries problems existing in the state.

In order to arrive at the answers of the above objectives, all of the waters of the state are being studied and classified, and fish samples are being taken from selected waters which most typically represent each class. To date we have been able to designate tentatively five major types of waters containing seventeen classes.

The most important phase of this project is dependent upon fish sampling. From random samples of fish populations in selected waters, we are able to determine much important information, such as:

1. The relative per-acre production of the different types of waters in the state.
2. The types and per cent of each species of fis in the various waters.
3. The difference in the growth rates of fish i good and bad areas.
4. The general balance of population, i.e., th ratio of good game and commercial fish to use less fish such as shad, gar, suckers, etc.
5. The presence or absence as well as the preva lence of worms and other parasites in fish.
6. The age and success of reproduction of th various species of fish.

With this information, our waters may be man aged properly. Good producing waters can be main tained and protected. Poor producing areas may b developed, and unbalanced areas can be experimente with in order to determine ways and means to re store balance.

There are several methods used to sample fish fo scientific purposes. These include seining, netting trapping, chemical poisoning and the use of elec trical seines. In attempting to sample any area, th method most applicable to that particular type o water and to the general water condition is selected In Louisiana, we are planning to use all of th methods from time to time. During the summe months of the year, the most practical and effectiv way to sample fish is through the means of chemica poisoning. This method is very effective, giving th most accurate results in the shortest possible time Because of this, we have used this method to a con siderable extent during the past summer. It wa necessarily discontinued after October 1, becaus of the low water temperature, and will not be use again until next year.

6. Fish soon begin to come to the surface and are picked u in dip nets.

The fish sampling operation, particularly with micals, has created much interest during the past r, and many questions have been asked about this ctice. An attempt has been made to answer all stions, and the public has been invited to observe sampling procedure at any time. Some of the lic have been able to see parts of these operans, but few have seen the entire operation. Most the interested observers have come away from sample areas satisfied that the operation is ded and important. A few have misunderstood, bably because they saw only a small part of the ration, or failed to ask the biologist in charge for explanation. In order to clear up some of the misceptions about chemical sampling, the remainder this article will deal only with that phase of the gram. First, let's take a look at a typical samng operation. Pictures one through eleven show steps in one complete operation. Several points uld be noted in particular, which are:

. The sample areas are totally enclosed by means of nets.

. The area sampled is very small when compared to the total area of water.

. In photograph No. 8, the greatest portion of fish by weight in cans A, B and C are rough fish and of no sport value.

. In photograph No. 9, note the few fish outside the net and the fact that all the fish in the netted area have drifted into one corner of the enclosure.

7. All fish are sorted by species, measured, and weighed, l scale samples are taken in order to determine their ages.

Some of the many questions which have been raised concerning chemical sampling and their correct answers may be listed as follows:

1. **Does sampling reduce or hurt the fish population?**

The answer is No. Our samples represent only a minute part of the total water area of the state. For example, Louisiana has over 4,000,000 acres of water. Between any two breeding seasons only 50 to 75 acres will be sampled at random over the state. This is less than 2/1,000 of one per cent of the state's total water area, and the fish taken will easily be replaced the following breeding season.

2. **How many pounds of fish are taken per sample?**

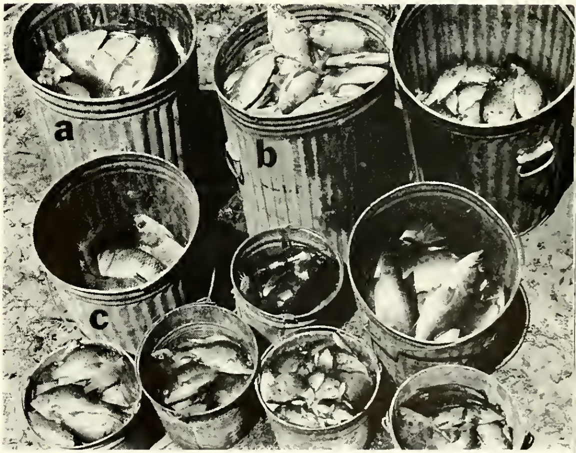
The take usually varies from 20 to 30 pounds in poor producing waters to several hundred pounds in good waters. The average is about 150 pounds. Of this poundage only between 30 per cent to 50 per cent are good game and commercial fish. The remainder are shad, suckers and gar, which should be removed from our waters.

3. **Are fish killed outside the sample area?**

Some fish are killed immediately around the area, but the chemical dissipates rapidly. In lakes and large waters the kill is only 15 to 20 yards outside the nets, and usually the chemical gets so weak in this area that only small fish and shad are killed. In small streams or rivers with currents, some effect may be had for two or three hundred feet below the sample area. For this reason we always take smaller samples in rivers, unless the rivers are quite large.

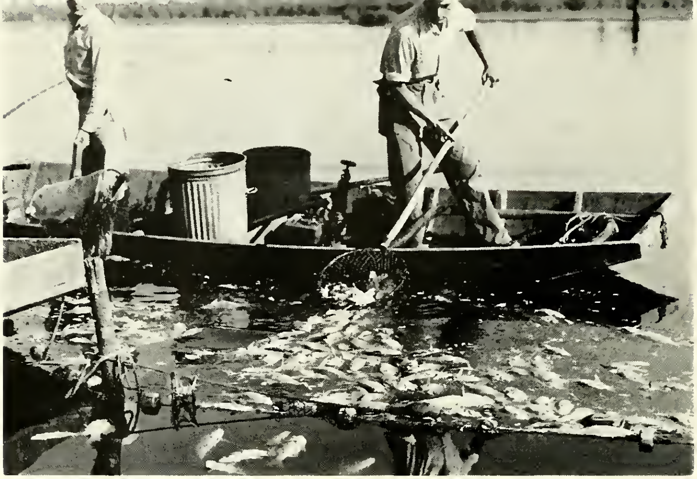
4. **Some people have alleged that we have lost control of our chemical, or that it has killed fish for miles downstream. Is this true?**

The answer is positively *No*. Our chemicals have always been under control, and in no instance has our sample been excessive. Occasionally some



→

8. This picture represents the population ratio of the sample area. Note that in cans A, B and C, which make up the greatest portion of the fish by weight, the species are of no sport value.



9. The fish not collected on the first day float to the surface and are picked up on the second day. Note that all cf the fish killed are within the enclosed net, excepting a few which washed over the net barrier.

fish, particularly shad, float downstream from the sample area. In cases where such dead fish have escaped the net barricade, it is likely that a casual observer might think that the actual kill was far outside the test area. In such instances, if the observer would contact the biologist for an explanation many false impressions would be cleared up.

5. Are there any instances where greater than a normal kill is made in or near the test area?

Here again the answer is No, if we consider all fish coming from within or near the test area to be a normal sample. On occasion, however, more fish come from a test area than is expected. This may be explained in two ways. First, in extremely rich and productive waters where the per-acre population is unusually high, a large sample naturally results. Such a condition cannot be detected in advance, nor does it hurt the area. It simply means that if the particular waters being sampled are good producers lots of fish will be in the sample, but the percentage take is relative to the total production and remains infinitesimally small. Rather than hurting any waters, such large samples only serve to indicate that another highly productive body of water has been located, and can be made to serve more anglers. A second way that abnormally large samples may occur in test areas occasionally happen in unbalanced waters with extremely high shad population. In such areas where shad make up more than 90 per cent of all the fish in the water, these useless rough fish swimming about in large schools may swim into the chemically treated area and die. Schools of shad may continue to migrate into the test area until the chemical dissipates, resulting in a large sample, practically all of which are shad. While such an occurrence is unwanted and only serves to create more work for the crews *it is actually beneficial to the area since the only known treatment of such badly unbalanced waters is to remov as many pounds of shad and other rough fish a possible.* This same pattern of shad migratin into the treated area may also occur to a lesse extent in highly productive waters. It is this occasional high shad kill which has caused th various false impressions, misstatements and confusion about the fish sampling procedure. Sha are killed by traces of chemical which have n effect on game fish. They make up to 30 to 90 pe cent by weight of most fish populations, and a fe pounds of small white shad, like a bag of feather scattered over the water, gives the impression t the casual observer that all the fish in the are have been killed. Actually the poundage taken i rarely significant and, whether small or large, i is generally beneficial to the water to remove thes fish.

6. What happens to the fish taken in the sample Are they edible?

Fish are collected as soon as the chemical take effect. Those taken while still alive and fresh ar as good to eat as fish taken by hook and line Those which cannot be caught die, sink and o course are not good to eat when collected the second day. All edible fish are made available t institutions or public governing bodies for distribution after they are measured, weighed and examined. In cases where samples are taken in out of-the-way places, however, it sometimes is impractical to save the fish for human consumption

The pictures and the above questions briefly cove the fish sampling procedures which we use. Fo further information and answers to specific questions you may write the author at Box 9055, University Station, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Next summer the public will again be welcome to observe an of the sampling procedures. ★

Shrimp is Simple

By Jan Sebastian

You tell us women folks a man likes things simple. But in the words of our very young son, 'I got news for ya'." When Cap'n Charlie phones me in mid-afternoon and instead of saying "Hi" asks, "How do you feel?"—then I too appreciate the simple things.

"It will be OK," I reply. "I'm fine. How many and what time?"

"I told 'em about five. I'll be home with the shrimp in a little while. There'll be about twelve of us. Sure it's all right?"

"Sure I'm sure. Better bring a couple of loaves of French bread."

We are in the sportfishing business at Grand Isle, a sandy little strip just off the mainland south of New Orleans. Many of our fishermen come long distances but sometimes the weatherman fails to remember. If the day has been too windy and has roughed up the Gulf and slowed down the fishing, my husband likes to compensate. His favorite method is by bringing the whole gang home with him for big platters of fried shrimp.

These are the times when a woman either likes things simple and can keep them that way or she is apt to flounder. Our hungry sportsmen seldom number less than six or eight. Once in a while there will be nearer twenty. So we have the menu and the system down to a fine point, and I am not bashful about putting a big, husky man to work. In fact, I'm a real executive about assigning jobs. Soon some of the fellows find themselves mincing garlic for the French bread or tossing the salad.

Day by day our refrigerator is inventoried for essentials—salad dressing ready to use, plenty of greens for a quick salad bowl, and a supply of cold, cold beer. Then, a gang of fishermen don't scare me.

The menu revolves around the fried shrimp, with French fries, garlic bread and a man-sized salad with blue cheese dressing. Simplest of all is the frying of the shrimp.

We don't remember when we first started using our unorthodox method nor why in the blue-eyed world we ever used beer to make a batter. Cap'n Charlie was feeling adventurous—that I recall—and the results were surprising in the affirmative. So he continued his research from time to time. The shrimp he fried became so popular with our friends that we soon evolved an easy method.

Our jumbo shrimp are supplied by our Louisiana waters to markets everywhere. You may use frozen ones with fine results. Of course they should be de-veined. If they are large, try splitting them lengthwise almost through. Now you can satisfy a dozen strapping sportsmen with "a box, a can, a bowl and a pan." The box will contain prepared biscuit mix, the can *beer*. Mix in the bowl and fry in the pan as follows:

Into the bowl, pour several cups of the biscuit mix judging the amount by the number of people to be served and don't worry. It's a cinch to mix more batter in a hurry.

Salt and pepper the mix well—very well—and taste a pinch until it definitely tastes salty. More pepper than usual too.

Next pour in cold beer and stir gently with a fork. As the mixture becomes a batter, add the beer cautiously because consistency is important. It should be thin enough to fry through quickly, but thick enough to coat each shrimp completely and hang on from bowl to frying pan.

That's all. The pan is best if it is a deep, heavy skillet or Dutch oven. The shrimp are fried in cooking oil hot enough to brown them quickly and deep enough to brown them halfway up the sides. Then turning once will complete the process. Drain the shrimp on several layers of paper toweling.

I won't say we don't like to brag, because we do. In this case, though, others do it for us. One of our Vicksburg gang brought his wife to Grand Isle from a New Orleans business trip just so she could meet the folks who fried those shrimp. A gourmet of repute decided we should forego sportfishing and run a seafood restaurant in Baton Rouge. And one of the Shackleford boys from upstate remarked as he reached for more:

"Y'know, I can usually shove back when I know I'm full but, man, I've eaten these shrimp 'til I feel like a swelled-up pup and I just can't quit!" ★

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CHOICE young parakeets for
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10,000 New Martin Houses

by Leslie Lloyd

The shortage of homes which has plagued many families during the past fifteen years is a familiar problem to birds, especially those which nest in cavities. If disaster areas could be named in the bird world, surely the purple martin would be given a very high priority for new housing facilities.

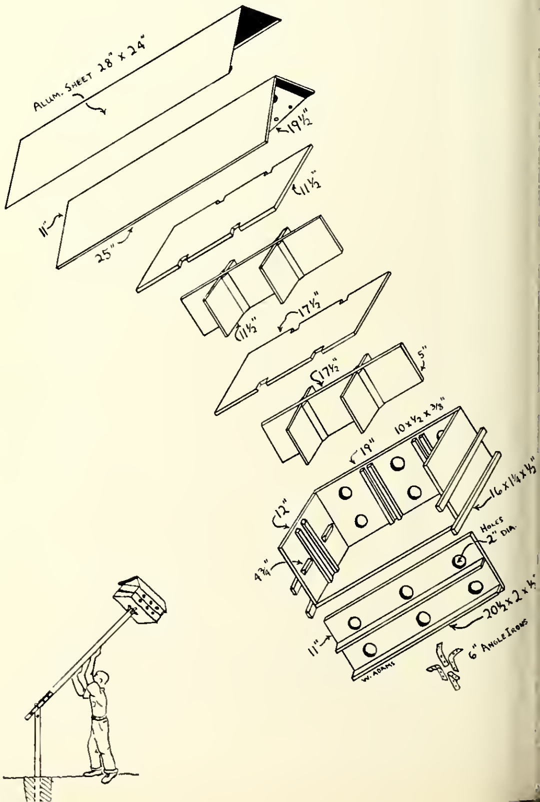
When the white settlers came to America, martins were nesting in tree cavities or holes in rock cliffs. The virgin forests which furnished an abundant supply of nesting sites gave way rapidly to advancing civilization. Under present day economic conditions most decadent trees which would provide nest holes are quickly removed to make room for rapidly growing young trees. The occupation of nearly all of the few remaining cavities by English sparrows and starlings has left martins stranded with very few natural nesting sites. Recently in and around Baton Rouge they have been observed nesting in rural mail boxes, iron stand pipes, bridge superstructures and other equally hazardous places. With a little effort, much can be done to alleviate this housing shortage.

Fortunately martins are a plastic species adaptable to changing conditions. Their acceptance of nest boxes illustrates how some wild birds have adjusted themselves to civilization. Since martins have become almost entirely dependent upon man-made houses for nesting sites, it is probable that the total population within their natural range is limited by the lack of houses.

The construction of artificial nesting sites for birds is nothing new, for it probably dates back to the beginning of civilization when man assumed dominance over other animals. Circumstantial evidence indicates that primitive man may have erected artificial nesting facilities for birds, the eggs and young of which provided him with food. Early literature records that the erection of bird houses was a common practice throughout Europe and Asia and that in later times it was practiced intensively. The American Indian tribes of the southeastern United States hung gourds on crossarms which were attached to tall poles. Today, gourds suspended from poles are a familiar sight in some sections of Louisiana.

Martins are a welcome and colorful addition to any area of habitation. Their cheerful notes, which are unusually musical for swallows, consist of a variety of chirps, twitters and squeaky calls. Their graceful soaring, steep dives and powerful flight are a pleasant sight.

In addition to their esthetic value, martins are of considerable economic importance. Their food is taken in the air and consists entirely of insects. Only rarely in cold, rainy weather when no insects are flying do they feed otherwise. Under such circumstances food is picked from the surface of water or from the tops of weeds or bushes. Among the insects which are consumed are serious agricultural pests such as cotton boll weevils, strawberry weevils,



mosquitoes, flies, squash bugs, stink bugs, tree hoppers, many beetles and other insects. Dragon flies may form a surprisingly large proportion of their food. Because of their aerial feeding habits, martins are not subject to the diseases of ground feeding birds. Fruits and berries are never eaten. Several people have reported that they are useful in sounding an alarm when hawks or crows approach their nesting area.

Martins spend the winter in Brazil and reappear in Louisiana from February to April. Although they nest from British Columbia to Prince Edward Isle, there is a progressive increase in the number of breeding pairs from north to south so that they are very common in Louisiana from the Arkansas line to the Gulf of Mexico.

The nest is constructed of bits of dry grass, weeds, twigs and leaves. Quite often mud and small pieces of gravel are added to the nest. Both sexes build the nest and both assist in feeding the young. Four or five pure white eggs are deposited in the nest; incubation requires about two weeks with the young remaining in the nest for 24 to 28 days.

Martins will occupy a great variety of nesting boxes. Since they are social birds with a fondness for the company of their own kind, they will live in large colonies. Complicated and expensive houses are not necessary. A very simple and inexpensive house which anyone can build can be made from a wooden apple box and two orange crates obtainable at the nearest grocery.

Any house with compartments which are approximately 6 x 6 inches, with entrances measuring 2½ inches in diameter, is suitable. Since martins have very short legs, the bottom of the entrance should be located not over 1½ inches above the floor of the house. Naturally the more durable the wood, the longer the house will last. Cypress is excellent for house construction because of its durability, lightness and ease of working.

Details of house construction from an apple box which are shown in the accompanying illustrations, are simple and easy to follow. This type of house is especially good since children can build it with a few inexpensive tools. Although this type of house is not as durable as one built of cypress, with proper care it will last four or five years. The outside should be painted with any color of paint which suits the builder's fancy. The house should be placed on a pole or iron pipe about twelve to fifteen feet from the ground in a rather open area away from trees. Wooden poles should be "cat-proofed" by placing a two foot wide metal guard around them at an elevation of six feet.

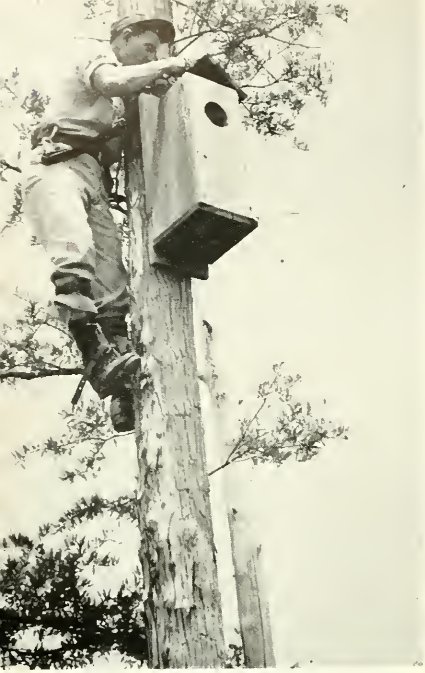
English sparrows and starlings are among the martin's worst enemies. Since these birds are very aggressive, they quickly move into a house, establish a territory and defend their newly acquired home against intrusion by other birds. Thus, if houses are up for some time before the arrival of martins, these pests become firmly established and are difficult to displace. Houses should be put up when the first martins are sighted in the spring.

After the birds have deserted their house in the summer, it should be taken down, cleaned and stored in a dry shed, thus extending the life of the house a few years more. ★

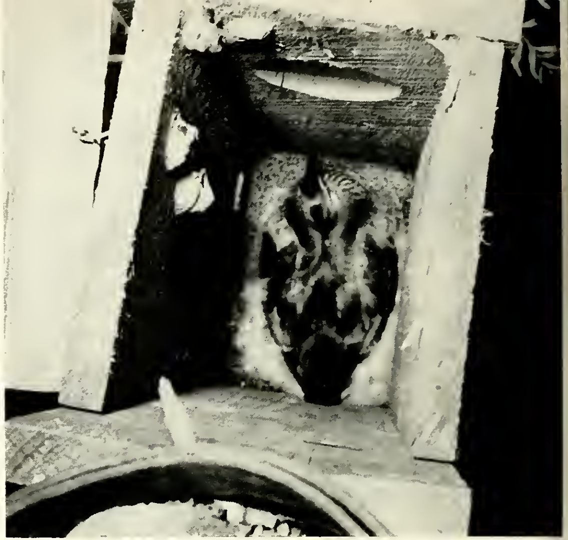
Photo by Blanchard.

Photo by Ensminger.

Photo by Blanchard.



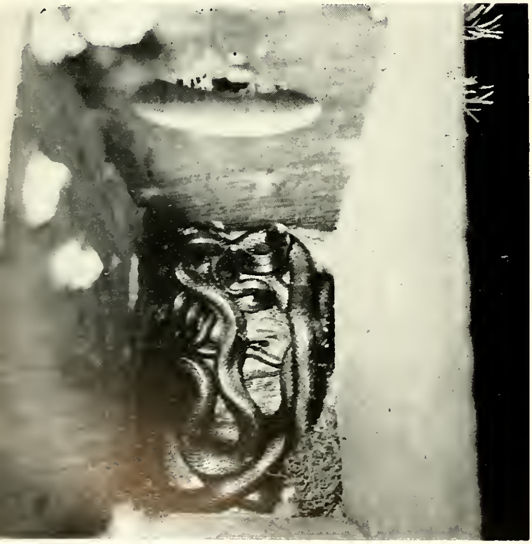
1. In an effort to bolster up faltering wood duck populations, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has for a number of years been erecting wood duck nesting boxes. The top of the nesting box is removable so that the box can be inspected and cleaned.



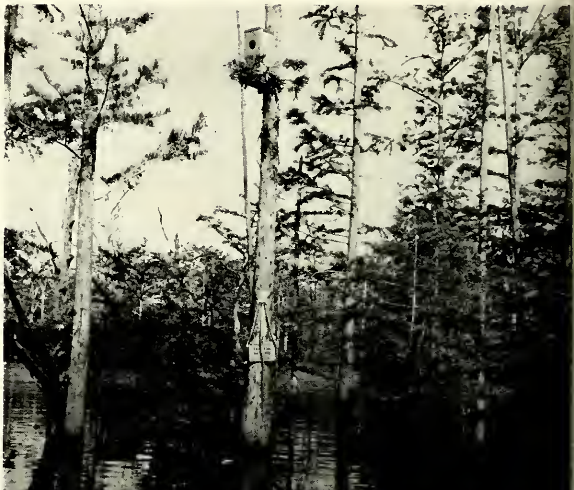
2. The top has been removed by the worker, and here you see the female woodie on the nest. The season on wood ducks was closed this year in the Mississippi Flyway after surveys indicated that the Flyway population was declining.

SNAKE in the

Photographs by

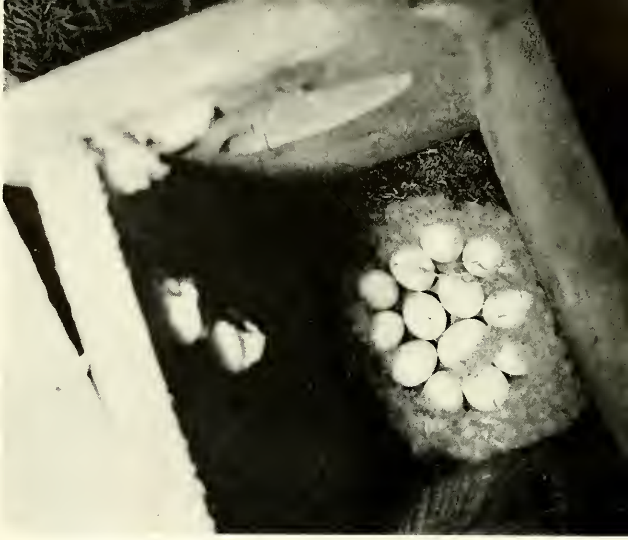


5. Two weeks later the checkers found these three gray rat snakes in the box. They had, of course, eaten the duck eggs. Snake depredations seems to be one of the most serious causes of nesting mortality in the wood duck case.



6. The snakes had to swim quite a distance from land to the tree. And how did they know which tree to climb? Roy Rogers, former biologist supervisor of District I (now working in Idaho), took these excellent pictures. He says they have found snakes in boxes more than a mile from land.

3. The male wood duck is thought by any to be our most beautiful duck. Here the emale is flushed from the box to reveal . . .

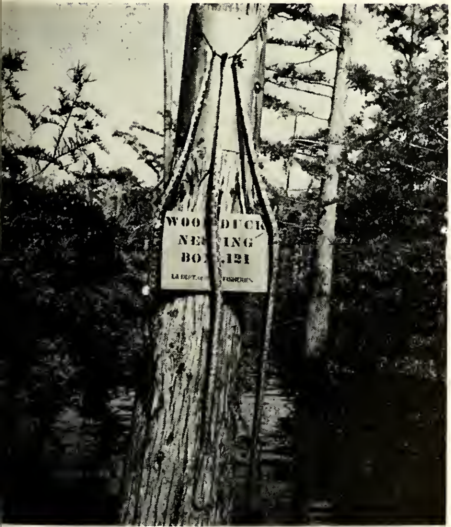


4. this clutch of eggs. Prior to this year the wood duck was Louisiana's most heavily shot species relative to total numbers, making up about 1% of the duck population of our state and comprising about 8% of the total kill.

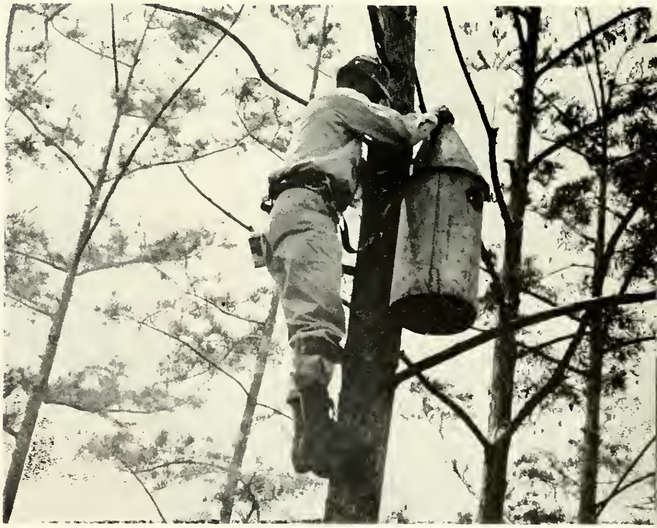
BOX

Boxes Erected For Nesting Wood Ducks Often Get Other Tenants

ay Rogers



7. Here you see a closeup of the three snakes. ote the metal "snakeproof" band around the tree hich they apparently had no difficulty crossing.



8. Metal boxes were tried in an effort to reduce losses to snakes. They are more expensive than the wooden boxes and did not prove to be much more efficient in keeping the snakes out. The man in photos number 1 and 8 is Sgt. Otis Rector, Jr., Barksdale AF Base, who volunteered his services in this project.

From left to right, standing, Les Gomez and Nick Cuccia; seated, Milton F. Winter, Steve Miranti, and Gus Trapani, with catch of speckled and white trout taken in Chandeleur Sound in October, '54.

Rangers Orlean Jowers and Ronald Cason with 150—200 lbs. fish and the "telephone" used to catch them in the Red River near Coushatta, September '54. Offenders received 60 days in jail each and were fined $100 each by Judge Paul Stephens. The fish went to Charity Hospital.

PICTURES *from our* READERS

Catfish weighing 50 lbs. caught in Bayou Mason River by Bire & Charlie Floyd, Gilbert, 8/25/54.

H. R. Hunter, Sr., Chalmette, with fish caught in pond near Slidell, June '54.

John Van Hees, Algiers, and
Hinchey, Harvey, with 46-lb. dru
in the Little Lake section of Lafitt
vember '54.

Justice of the Peace Samuel Hernandez and Alcide Ledoux, Palmetto, with 25-lb. yellow cat caught by Ledoux on a garfish line in Bayou Rouge September '54.

Messrs. Virgil Wright, W. E. McDonald, Jr., W. W. Mabry and N. E. Mabry with 40 squirrels taken in Whiskey Hollow, Caldwell Parish, 10/2/54. All men are from Columbia, La.

Douglas Farmer and Harry Lofton, of Pineville, with gars taken on Little River. The pair has gigged over 1600 gars this year.

b., 2-oz. bass caught by Dudley Bateman, klinton, on 11/1/54, from the fish pond of on Smith. Bass was taken on a rod and reel a live minnow.

Ducks killed during a two-day hunt in November, 1926, made from the home of James Fawvor at Grand Chenier. Left to right: Mr. K. Hundley and Dr. Marvin Cappel, both of Alexandria.

Robert Dubroe (age 9) of Alexandria holding 4-ft. gar he harpooned in a nearby stream in June '54.

Officers elected at the 10/18/54 meeting of the Richland Wildlife Unit were (front row): S. L. Thames, Mangham, Vice-President; T. J. Coenen, Rayville, President; Russell Burk, Rayville, Secretary. Backing 'em up is Roy Snider, of Delhi, outgoing President.

Photo by Blanchard.

by Claude Gresham

NEW FISHERY in the GULF

Over the rail of the Oregon comes 500 pounds of blue marlin and about seven feet of white-tipped shark.

Housewives May Soon Find a Louisiana Label On Canned Tuna

I hooked a leg over the top-deck railing, leaned out over the violently churning water thirty feet below, and focused the movie camera on 180 pounds of yellowfin tuna as the two gaffmen strained to slide the big fish aboard. Minutes before I had ground out footage as twelve feet of blue marlin was hoisted out of the foaming breakers with a power gaff. Before the shutter stopped running I would have shots of white marlin, sailfish, and mako sharks as well.

If I stopped right there and shot you the $64 question: "Where?", chances are ten to one you'd come back with, "The Bahamas". And nine times out of ten you'd be right, but not now. Nay, it ain't so. The locale for this bit of piscatorial action was not less than thirty nor more than sixty miles from our own Louisiana coastline. And when I say coastline, I mean shoreline—terra firma—ground. Interested? Stick with me.

Since 1950 the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has operated an exploratory research vessel, the OREGON, in the Gulf. Berthed at Pascagoula, Mississippi, it is under the direction of Mr. Stewart Springer. Most of the four years the boat has operated have been spent in shrimp investigations, but attempts had been made to catch the tuna that were occasionally seen. Blackfin tuna were seen in 1950. In 1951 large yellowfin tuna, which is the species commonly canned, were sighted. Efforts were made to take them in purse seines, but they failed.

The following year Springer tried for the yellowfins with the traditional West Coast tuna methods. That means live bait and slaughter poles, after chumming gets the school in close to the boat. This time it was no slaughter. Whenever they had an opportunity during the 180 days they were at sea that year, they tried for tuna—unsuccessfully. Well, not quite. They caught one yellowfin.

It was in June of last summer that a cruise report of the OREGON came to my attention. In May and June, using a modification of the Japanese long line, the OREGON had taken large yellowfin tuna on 14 of the 20 sets made during the cruise. Also taken were swordfish, marlin, and sailfish. This the Louisiana fishermen had to know more about, so the 23rd day of August found me boarding the boat at one of its ports of call, Pensacola, Florida.

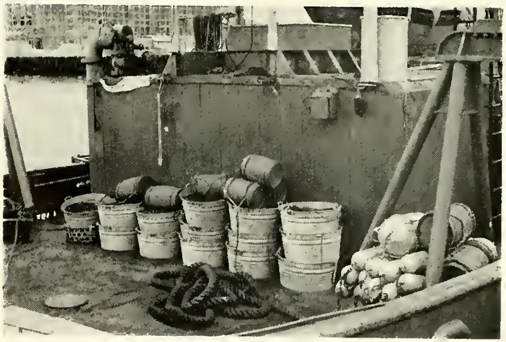
"You needn't have brought this blow with you", Springer greeted as I came aboard. "Looks like we'll stay tied up here until morning, now. No use to get out in this and take a beating all night."

The high wind did keep us tied up at the docks of the Warren Fish Company overnight, and it gave me opportunity to get acquainted with the crew and the boat. As you might guess, the OREGON was originally built for fishing off the northwest coast. t's a hundred feet long and broad of beam—a big hundred feet, and powered by a single 600 h.p. Enterprise diesel engine. Two Caterpillar-diesel 00 h.p. engines supply other needed power. The boat is well equipped with power hoists and booms nd has a good workshop. Besides the power plants, he hold houses both wet and dry refrigerated tanks, he workshop, and other storage space. On what mounts to the first floor to this landlubber, there s a big kitchen-dining room, and the main sleeping uarters. Topside is the pilot house, captain's cabin, nd three small rooms which will sleep two men ach. The captain's cabin also serves as chartroom nd radio room.

Stewart Springer was the party chief for this ruise. He is also head of the Exploratory Research nd Gear Development Section, under which the REGON operates. He has been with the FWS since 950, when the boat first began operations. All the members of the OREGON'S crew have at some time or ther been successful commercial fishermen. It's a equirement. As a consequence, Springer has a roup of men who are about as capable at the task hey're charged with as you could find. Among them here are a multitude of skills—from net-making o carpentry to tool making to photography. It will ave to be a very abnormal situation that this crew annot handle.

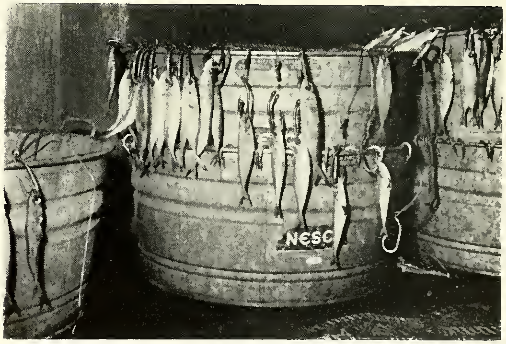
Boat captain is Alvin M. Morgan, who has had xtensive fishing experience (including tuna) in the acific and in southern waters off the coast of South merica. Alert and intelligent, he's one captain who oes his share of the manual labor. Johnny Tyler,

Setting the Long Line



The tubs, or baskets, of neatly coiled line are stacked on the rear deck of the OREGON in readiness for the set.

When the line is being set, at least one man is kept busy baiting hooks. The bait was taken from the freezer and thawed each night before the next day's set.



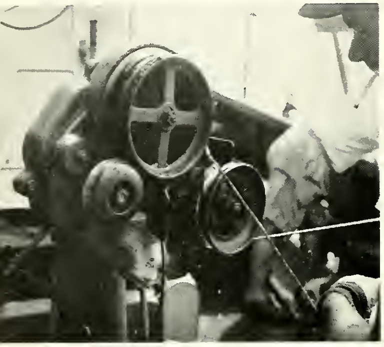
Here you see a tub of baited hooks. Note that the bait (cigar fish) is hooked through the eyes. The hooks are 9/0 size and are made in Norway.

Setting the line. On the left Captain Morgan removes each baited hook from the tub edge in turn and tosses it clear. In the center George Wentzel keeps the main line moving out smoothly. A big fish hitting the bait just as it's tossed overboard can cause chaos. On the right Mose Weems stands ready with a float.

The line retrieving gear. Here they are actually rigging new gear, tying on gangions as the main line comes in over the roller at left of pix.

The man at top controls the stop-go lever of the line puller. The line comes over the roller, to the line puller, and is coiled in tubs beneath it.

The puller ingeniously coils the main line in t
tubs placed beneath it. One man coils each gangi
into smaller loops manually and places it in t
tub.



The Japanese line puller which makes the long line method of fishing practical.

Mose Weems and Captain Morgan pull a tuna over the rail.

On bigger fish, such as this shark, the power g
is used. The sharks are always alive when broug
aboard. One snapped the steam hose (shown in t
picture) in half as he thrashed around the deck.

Retrieving the Long Line

Pascagoula, is the first mate. John L. Wozencraft, Pascagoula, is the chief engineer and the flyboy of the outfit. Rounding out the list are Fred "Mose" Weems, Biloxi; Frank J. Hightower, Biloxi; Ansel Adams, Biloxi; Sven Svensen (from Sweden, where else?), Pascagoula; Jake Kennerson, Bayou La Batre, Ala.; George Wentzel, Pascagoula; and Gene Mathews, Pascagoula. Extra passengers for the trip, besides myself, were Art Marshall, University of Miami graduate student doing marine research; and Gustaf Sundstrom, from the Washington office of the FWS. A popularity contest on the OREGON would be won hands down by Ansel Adams. He's the cook, and a good one. Left in Pascagoula to man the office during this trip were H. R. Bullis, Jr., Francis J. Captiva, and George A. Berglund. They are all classed as fishery methods and equipment specialists.

The following morning we eased out of the Pensacola harbor amid heavy ground swells. The barometer was high but falling, and the wind was still brisk. At a speed of about ten knots we rode southwest all day, cutting the engine at 4:30. During the trip out the crew was busy rigging new line, and I had an opportunity to examine the gear.

The Japanese long line is little more than an overgrown trot line. The main line, which is the "long" part of the "long line", was being fished
at a depth of 20 fathoms (120 feet). It was he
at this level by a series of floats. From the ma
line extend the drop lines to which the hooks a
tied. These drops are called "gangions", and a
about 25 feet long. The hooks are made in Norwa
and are connected to the gangion line by a two-fo
cable leader. Ten hooks are called a "basket", a ter
derived from the baskets used by the Japanese
coil the line in. In the case of the OREGON, most
these baskets are literally washtubs. The gangior
and hence the hooks, are 72 feet apart.

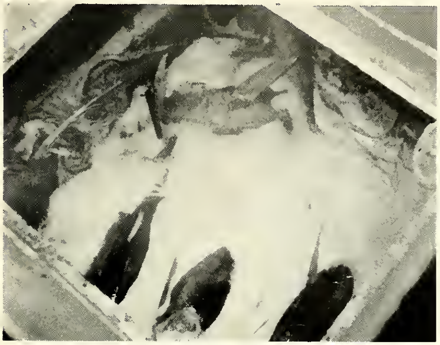
Although the OREGON had never fished more th
26 baskets before, the new equipment being rigg
would bring the total to 50 baskets—500 hool
Each segment of line designated as a basket w
138 fathoms long; thus, our big trot line was abo
eight miles long. With this in mind, you can visu-
ize the impossibility of handling this without n-
chanical aid, and a "line puller" designed by t
Japanese makes this method of fishing practic.
I got a chance to see it operate when the new ge
was paid out into the water and recoiled in tu.
When the line is brought back aboard it comes acr
a roller on the deck railing. It then goes to the li
puller, which is run by a small gasoline engi.
The puller not only pulls the line in—it coils t
stuff in the tubs placed beneath it.

As the fish are brought aboard they are pulled across to the other side of the ship out of the way. These tuna average over a hundred pounds each.

After the entire line is brought back aboard, the fish are cared for. Weights and measurements are taken. Here John Wozencraft weighs a yellowfin tuna.

Wozencraft handles the gaff, while Art Marshall lifts the tail to slide a tuna into the refrigerated brine storage tank.

The wet storage tank will hold 5 tons of brine which is kept beow freezing. Springer says that he tank is unnecessarily large or this fishing.



Looking down into the brine tank, we see marlin and tuna. The brine was kept at 25 to 27 degrees Fahrenheit during out trip, but this was not cold enough for best results. The preceding trip it was kept down to 20 degrees, but that caused considerable ice on the coils.

After the fish are cared for, there still remains the big job of straightening out the tangled baskets of line so it will be ready for the next set. This required several hours at times.

After the Fish Are Aboard

We drifted the night of the 24th and began setting the line at dawn on the 25th. It was set from the stern as the boat moved slowly ahead. Two men were kept busy baiting the baskets and setting the tubs in position on the stern bench. Another connected the baskets together and hooked the floats on, tossing them overboard at the precise moment. One man watched the line uncoiling from the tubs, ready to free it instantly in case of tangles. Another picked up each baited hook in turn and tossed it clear. It was a smooth operation which, despite a heavy rain, required only an hour and a half to complete.

The bait being used was largely cigar fish, which Springer indicated was best. Some mullet and squid were also used. All had been frozen, having been thawed out the previous night in preparation for the morning set. The fish were hooked through the eyes.

With the line set we went inside for breakfast, and I checked our position with Captain Morgan. Our exact location was 29 degrees north and 88 degrees 02 minutes west. More important, it was about 60 miles from the mouth of South Pass at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

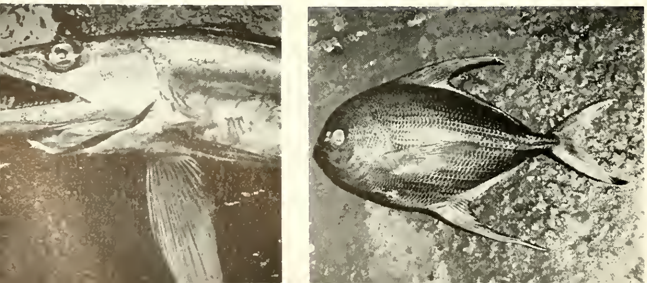
The line is free floating, with a flag buoy at each end. We drifted near the south end of the line (it was laid in a north-south direction because of the wind direction) until about 9:00 a.m., then began taking the line in. Each man of the crew knew his job and kept the line moving most of the time. The boat was run back along the line slowly, with the first mate slowing down, speeding up, or stopping to keep pace with the crew below. Mose Weems worked at the roller. When a hook with bait on it would come in he removed the bait and tossed it in a bucket—not overboard. I was to find out why later. When a fish came in he helped with the gaffing. Wetzel worked the line puller, coiling the gangions and laying them in place as the puller coiled the main line in the tubs. As each tub would fill, he'd shove it aside and put an empty one in place. Frank Hightower took the filled tubs and placed them toward the stern in readiness for the next set. He also unhooked the floats and their lines as they came in, coiling them neatly for the next day's operation.

Captain Al spent most of his time helping with the gaffing. When a fish came over the rail, Gene Mathews would untie the gangion from the main line and Sven would slide the fish over to the other

All useful parts of the fish were saved. Here Sven Svensen and Wozencraft collect shark fins for making shark fin soup. The meat of the mako sharks is also saved, since it is eaten in the New England states.

Shark livers are collected. From them is extracted vitamin A. Shark livers were at one time the main source of this vitamin, but it now can be produced cheaper by synthetic means.

Two interesting fish which were taken on the long line were these. Springer knew of no common names for them. The Aleptisaurus, a head view of which is shown left below, is a long, eel-like fish with a dorsal fin almost like a sailfish. The ones we caught ranged from one to about four feet in length. The Bramid, right below, is a beautiful chocolate brown color. The two caught while I was aboard weighed about two or three pounds each.



side of the ship, out of the way. Gene also handled the stop-go lever of the line puller. Springer kept a record of each hook that came aboard—empty, bait still on it, or what kind of fish. Kennerson and Wozencraft took turns spelling men at the different stations and calling instructions to the man at the wheel.

About noon our boat was joined by the PEERLESS, a snapper schooner of the Warren Fish Company which was being outfitted for tuna. It wanted tc test the line pulling apparatus just installed, so took in two baskets while we sat by and watched. With this delay of about an hour and a half, we took the last of the hooks aboard at 3:30.

We found that an extra basket had been laid, making 510 hooks. The catch included 15 yellowfin tuna, 2 blue marlin, 1 white marlin, 3 mako sharks, 8 silk sharks, 3 white-tipped sharks, and a few other assorted species. The next three or four hours were spent caring for the fish and the line. All tuna and white marlin were weighed and measured. The blue marlin were measured — more than 12 feet long each—but were too big to weigh. Liver and fins were taken from the silk and white-tipped sharks for vitamin A from the former and shark-fin sou from the latter. The meat of the mako sharks was kept, since it is eaten in the eastern states. Th tuna and marlin were then dropped into a refrigerated brine tank for storage.

Some of the line, usually where a big fish wa hooked, looked like a gigantic backlash, and it required hours of work to get it ready for the nex set. We drifted that night and made the secon set at dawn the following day in essentially the sam location. The catch included 10 yellowfin tuna averaging over a hundred pounds, 5 white marlin, 32 pound dolphin, and numerous sharks.

On both of these first two sets tuna and marli were lost to sharks. Some would be brought aboar with only the head left. The crew told me of a mak shark a few days earlier that grabbed a tuna jus before it was brought aboard and refused to tur loose. The shark was gaffed while still hanging o to the tuna. It was found that discarding unuse bait overboard made shark damage worse, so tha was discontinued.

For the third day of fishing Stewart agreed t move in closer to our Louisiana shoreline, and th set was made at 88 degrees 34 minutes west and 2 degrees 50 minutes north. This is approximatel 30 miles from the mouth of South Pass in an easterl direction. Since I was to be dropped off at the Sout Pass pilot station that afternoon they decided to se only 30 baskets—300 hooks. Water depth at th point ranged from 450 to 550 fathoms, whereas f the first two sets it ranged from 700 to 900 fathom The sea was fairly smooth, with a 5 mph east win Water temperature was 84 and air temperature 8 degrees.

That half a set brought in 15 yellowfin tuna whic aggregated 1621 pounds, 7 white marlin, and o sailfish. One big yellowfin was lost at the gaff. Another big fish, probably a billfish from the way the line was tangled, ran under the boat and broke off. All of this only one, two, or three hours from our own Louisiana shoreline, depending upon the speed of your boat.

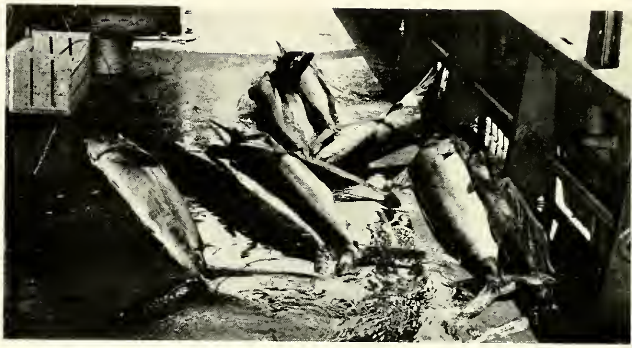
To sum up, for the three sets we caught 45 yellow-fin tuna, 2 blue marlin, 13 white marlin, 1 sailfish, and 3 mako sharks. Those are the important fish. Springer says that an early morning set has been found best, and that best catches are made during rough weather. For our first two sets we had winds of 20 to 25 mph. The biggest tuna weighed 180 pounds; the biggest blue marlin, about 500 pounds; he biggest white marlin, 85 pounds; and the sail-ish, 51 pounds.

Just what does all of this mean to Louisiana? Only time will tell for certain, but this we know: There are tuna in the Gulf in commercial quantities, and they can be caught. Trial canning packs have hown that they are equal in quality to West Coast una, conservatively speaking. We like to say that West Coast tuna are equal to our Gulf tuna in uality—*almost*. There is little market for fresh una. These fish breed in the Gulf. Young fish and dults with ripened roe have been found, so we can xpect to have tuna every year. There are some hings we do not know. Foremost is the monthly istribution, the seasonal occurrence, and the OREGON is working on that constantly. Several boats rom Pensacola and Pascagoula have been outfitted o fish tuna in the Gulf. They will add to the knowl-dge we now have, and that being gathered by the OREGON. Springer believes that our own seagoing hrimp trawlers can be easily converted for tuna shing.

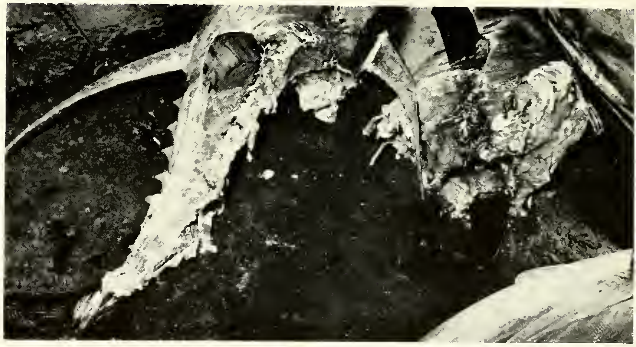
The sport fishermen have good reason for high opes, also. If it is found that we have these big ame fish—marlin, tuna, makos, in fishable quan-ties, and it certainly looks as though we have, Loui-iana may become the center of a new and great port fishing industry. The bigger of the two blue marlin taken on this trip would have ranked second in the country for 1953, had it been taken on sport ackle. Both would have placed in the first five. everal of our sport boats are already making prep-rations to go after these big fish, with outriggers, igger tackle, and the other extras. It may take uite a bit of experimenting before they find the ombination—before they learn how to take the big ellows on sporting tackle. When they find it they'll ave hit the jackpot.

The fish are there, and Louisiana has a strategic osition. Our Mississippi delta gives us protective and extending a hundred miles into the Gulf. It puts s within ten miles of "deep water"—the 100-fathom ne. Let's take advantage of nature's gift in this espect. Let's not miss the boat! ★

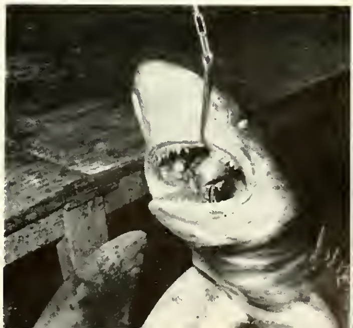
A record is kept of each hook that is fished, with notes as to whether it comes back aboard with bait still on, bait gone, kind of bait used, and what kind of fish caught on it—if any. Stewart Springer mans the pencil and clipboard here.



A pile of fish to make sport fishermen drool. Seven white marlin and a sailfish taken in one morning's fishing only 30 miles off of South Pass.



Above are two tuna which the sharks got to before we did. At right is the business end of a white-tipped shark.



Pollution Control Progress

by Frank J. Coogan

Two months ago when I last wrote this column, I talked of the coming cane grinding season and of my doubts and fears regarding the success of our pollution abatement program. I was well justified in some cases and not in others. Below is a quick review of the sugar mill pollution problems as it stood on December 9.

First off, to brag a little, I shall talk about the outstanding success that the managements of the six mills located in the Choctaw Basin had in stopping the killing of fish in Bayou Choctaw and Bayou Grosse Tete. For the first time in many years, fish are alive at this time of year in these two bayous. More power to these conscientious mill operators. Lest I make it look easy, much time and money was spent to achieve this goal.

The same can be said for the folks that run the two mills that used to discharge into the Bayou Corne, Grand Bayou, Lake Natchez Basin. Large sums of money were spent by one mill's management to build a huge impounding basin, while the people running the other mill chose to build a pipe line into the river. The net result is that the water in this area is beautiful, something that these operators can be proud of because it wasn't cheap and it wasn't easy.

Shortly after the grinding season started, trouble developed in the Bayou Boeuf Area, Lafourche Parish. Quick work on the part of mill management, using sand bags to block the flow of the mill's waste in any direction except back into a swampy area, cleared up this trouble in short order. A permanent solution will be arrived at before next grinding season.

Bayou Teche has benefited by some slight improvement but not near enough to bring about a satisfactory condition in the bayou during grinding season. The main trouble here is the close proximity of the mills in the Jeanerette area.

Bayou Black in Terrebonne Parish is in much better shape than it has been in several years. However, it is thought that any flushing rain will bring about an immediate worsening of the condition of Bayou Black.

We failed almost completely to bring about any betterment in the condition of Bayou L'Onion, Grand Bayou, Bayou Chevrevil, all in Lafourche Parish.

It isn't that the men operating the mills discharging into the L'Onion area did not do anything to bring about a change. It is just that there was no rain and the steps taken by the mills were not enough to clean up the pollution. More work will be done in the area next year.

Trouble also developed in Bayou Tigre, Terrebonne Parish. This is a particularly difficult problem to handle, but it must be solved.

There were four main things proved this year, first, it was clearly demonstrated that steps can be taken to control sugar mill pollution, second, that it is not necessary to have a condenser water discharge with a high B.O.D. (biochemical oxygen demand), third, that floor washings, condensate from the effects, acid and alkali clean-up water, and filter press mud can be impounded or otherwise satisfactorily disposed of, and fourth, that in almost all cases that it is necessary to impound cane wash water.

All of our work for next year will be based on these four points. I feel that if we can make the same amount of progress next year that we made this year that it won't be long before we have sugar mill pollution whipped. ★

Southwest Field Trial Association Holds Fifth Annual Meet

by Harry Gates

On Sunday, November 14, the Southwest Louisiana Field Trial Association brought to a dramatic finish a three field trial that kept the participants and gallery in a dither until the last brace had been run.

After a slow start on Friday, November 12, the gallery built by leaps and bounds, and Saturday and Sunday saw every available saddle occupied and numerous cars parked at the bird field in order to witness the finish of a brace they were unable to follow. Even jeeps were drafted in lieu of horses. All in all, it was by far the greatest event in the five-year history of the Association; and the 48 dogs registered included several that showed promise of becoming national circuit contenders.

Judges for the event were Ken Hammond, and Ray Huckaby. The selection of judges of such unimpeachable integrity was, without doubt, one of the major reasons for the large number of entries and the spirit of good fellowship which prevailed among the competitors.

In the puppy stakes Honey Bee, a setter handled by Jeff Elgin of Ferriday, placed first, with Driving Jim, a pointer owned and handled by Earl Walker, of Sulphur, coming in second. Third place went to Survivors Belle, handled by T. N. Woodside, of Jackson.

In the derby stakes, class and bird sense galore were exhibited, with first place going to Pat, a little female pointer handled by Hugh Worley of Baton Rouge, closely followed by Briarsfield Ace, under the handling of Jeff Elgin of Ferriday. Nipping on the heels of both was Dee Ross, handled by T. N. Woodside of Jackson.

Outstanding with seven finds in the all-age was first place winner Leaderette, handled by Jeff Elgin. Second place went to Survivors Village Kate, under the guidance of Leon Cantrell of Baton Rouge. Jeff Elgin's Keep Moving came in third.

The results of the shooting dog series was a torrid topic of discussion until the last brace had been picked up. With finds running as high as 13 per dog in 45 minutes, no one could weigh the many factors involved, and all quietly awaited the decision of Judges Hammond and Huckaby. First place was awarded to Shady Buck, owned and handled by Ed Dickson of Lake Charles. Second place went to Joe, owned and handled by Bart Carlton of Maplewood. Third place was taken by Arkansas Traveler, owned and handled by Harry Gates of Lake Charles.

Upon affiliating with the national field association two years ago, the local club instigated the single course system, which consists of a previously determined course of approximately three miles, terminating in a bird field of some ten acres. Along this course, which is plainly marked, are planted 12 coveys of six birds each to supplement any native birds present. In the bird field some 30 birds are placed prior to the trial. No additional birds are planted along the course, but an addition of two birds is made in the bird field for each brace in order to assure sufficient opportunity for points at all times. Near the bird field, a parking area for automobiles has been established, from which may be witnessed some of the most spectacular bird work of the trial. ★

unters and Fishermen o Receive Questionnaires

Some 15,000 of you will be sent ques- ionnaires concerning your fishing activities or 1954. It is very important that we re- eive answers from as many as possible of hose who receive these questionnaires. The ames are picked by a modified random ampling method and therefore are used represent the total fishing activity for ll fishermen for Louisiana. In order for his to be statistically sound, we need a rge percentage of replies, so whether or ot you did much fishing in 1954, or none t all, if you get one of these questionnaries, lease fill it out as accurately as possible nd place it in the postage-paid envelope nd send it back to us right away. This is nportant to us and to you. The aim of he Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Com- ission is to provide more and better hunt- ng and fishing for more Louisiana people. y helping us you are helping yourself.

The returns will be transferred to punch ards and processed by various types of usiness machines so that we will get total nd average figures, and no individual re- urns will be singled out. It is not necessary or you to sign your name unless you wish participate in such surveys in the future. Ve anticipate and appreciate your cooper- tion.

Please keep some sort of record of your unting efforts and success for the 1954-55 eason, as about 15,000 of you will be asked or this information next spring. In order or our statistical survey to provide us with he necessary and useful information, we ust get accurate replies from you who are oing the hunting. Please have this in- ormation on how many times you went unting, what you killed, etc. ready so that ou can fill in and return the questionnaire romptly. We have a lot of data from the urvey conducted last spring, but it is still n the process of being compiled, evaluated, c. Due to the slowness in answering, this rst survey has taken much longer than we ad anticipated. If you receive a question- aire this spring, please fill it out as soon s you possibly can and place it in the ostage-paid envelope and return to us. e will need the cooperation of the Loui- ana sportsmen in order to provide more nd better hunting.

We thank those who cooperated in 1954 nd also express our appreciation in ad- ance to those who will cooperate in 1955.

Charles R. Shaw

Project Leader FW 1-R

Your 1954 fishing license expired Midnight December 31. Have you otten your new one yet?

CARTOONS

New Orleans

I suppose you are getting many letters about the November issue, and may I say that anybody who did not get a good laugh from "The Lighter Side of Waterfowling" must be in a sad condition indeed. I have it in my little office, and do I have fun with all the fishermen and hunters. I saw guys laugh that must've had frozen faces for years. Whoever made those cartoons up must be a real outdoor man, and does he know his stuff.

It is my say that I don't think anyone in this good old U.S. has a better wildlife magazine, and it gets better with each issue. —Thomas C. Knaebel, Sr.

* * * *

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Ringgold

I have been appointed as a Justice of the Peace in this parish and am wondering if I may obtain copies of the Sportsman's Creed which was printed on Page 24 of your November issue. I had in mind giving each hunter charged with wildlife law violations a copy of the Creed, that he might better understand the property owner's viewpoint.

If no reprints have been made of the Creed, may I have your permission to print a supply of these for distribution as outlined above. Also, who is the author?

Would it be possible to obtain a copy of the Conservation Pledge used in your masthead—one suitable for framing? I would like to have a copy on the wall of our office here. —Don Quinn

* * * *

KEEP YOUR COPIES

Marrero

You have a very excellent, interesting magazine in the Conservationist. We shall be happy to receive it, and I intend to bind the issues into book form by year to keep for reference. —Mrs. David Leroy Owens

* * * *

A PLACE TO HUNT

Baton Rouge

Add me to your list of readers who look forward to every issue of the Conservationist. I'd like to see more about quail propagation, and some advice as to what lands are open for hunting near Baton Rouge. —Boyd H. McMullan

SHOCKING MACHINES

Leesville, La.

I have a favor to ask of you. I understand that there appeared in the Conservationist a good many issues back a diagram of the so-called "telephone" rig for electrocuting fish. I have misplaced my copy and have recently acquired a wall-type telephone. I would appreciate a reprint or one of the back copies of your fine magazine. —Carmen W. Oakes

We appreciate your inquiry but regret that we just sent our last 200 copies of this issue to the Statewide Louisiana Violators' Association. —C.H.G.

* * * *

POSTED LANDS

Port Allen

In your November issue Mr. Young commented on the great number of posted and no trespassing signs placed about the country that discourage hunters and fishermen. This became even more evident to me a couple of months ago when I tried to go hunting in the Ramah swamp, back of Maringouin, and found it to be posted, with an officer in charge, by some association called the Iberville Game Protective Society. I would like to know if there is such a society and whether or not it is sanctioned by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. If it is truly to protect game and is in the interest of conservation I am all for it, but if it is for the purpose of serving a few individuals I think that something should be done about it.

Another association in the same area, called the Atchafalaya Game Protective Society, has blocked off Black Bayou. This area, which was recently opened up by an oil well canal, is excellent for bass fishing, and I know of no shortage of fish to be protected in this area.

I would like to know something about these societies, and if they are or are not for conservation, and whether or not they are legal. —Maurice J. Pecquet.

Can any of the readers give the Conservationist and Mr. Pecquet information about the societies he mentions? —C.H.G.

★

by

Charley Bosch

Executive Secretary

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

with the FEDERATION

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Inc. will hold its annual convention in the Virginia Hotel, Monroe, Louisiana on February 25-27, 1955.

Conservation Publications

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
232 Carroll St., N.W.
Takoma Park
Washington 12, D.C.

The National Wildlife Federation wit which the Louisiana Wildlife Federation i affiliated has many free and inexpensive publications available. These publications ar made available to school teachers, librarie sportsmen's clubs, and civic organization in an effort to meet the demand for worthwhile conservation literature.

Single copies of the free materials will b sent eligible persons who will direct thei request to the Servicing Division of th National Wildlife Federation at the addres given above. Most of the inexpensive publications are made available at cost.

Eighth grade school teachers may obtai 25 copies of the free materials unless otherwise noted for class room use. It is recommended that requests for materials be mad on official school stationery when more tha single copies are desired for use in eight grade class rooms. Quantity orders shoul be for multiples of twenty five.

Following is a partial list of the publications available:

Elementary and Intermediate School Materials

General Nature Leaflets—illustrated, 3¢ each in quantities over 25.

1. Upland Game Birds, Waterfowl & Shore Birds—19 pp.
2. Song Birds—8 pp.
3. Mammals—12 pp.
4. Marine Fish, Fresh Water Fish—16 pp.
5. Wild Flowers—3 pp.
6. Soils, Water and You—4 pp.

Photos by Hurley Campbell

Let's Build Some Brush Shelters For Fish
Let's Plant Willows
Let's Build V-Dams
Let's Tithe For Trout
Let's Build Brush Shelters For Wildlife
Boxtrap Bunnies
Let's Build Log Dams
Desert in your own backyard
Let's Work for Welcome Woodie Week
By John Douglas Bulger

High School and Adult Materials

1. *Wake Up, America!* — Mel O. Steen, 12 pp., 3¢ each in quantities over 25. A message of warning for American citizens to take interest in our diminishing resources.
2. *Poverty or Conservation—Our National Problem*—J. N. Darling, 32 pp., 7¢ each in quantities over 25. A provocative discourse on the major conservation decisions which Americans face.
3. *Conservation and You*—Dr. Walter P. Taylor, 12 pp., 4¢ each in quantities over 25. It describes the broader aspects of conservation and citizen responsibility in regard to national defense, land management and public affairs.
4. *Conservation Education for American Youth*—50 pp., 40¢ each. An excellent outline on the conservation of soil, water, animal, plant, mineral and human resources. Teachers will find this particularly useful.
5. *Approaches To Conservation*—7¢ each in quantities over 25. A set of six booklets discussing erosion, forest fires, vanished wildlife, animal diseases, predatory wildlife, and wildlife of the waters. Illustrated.
6. *What's Wrong with Wildlife Administration?*—Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, 4 pp., illus., 2¢ each in quantities over 25. A frank appraisal of what various wildlife management programs lack in proper administration.
7. *Game Laws Are No Joke!*—Claude D. Kelley, 8 pp., illus., 3¢ each in quantities over 25. Describes the need for adequate law enforcement.
8. *A Desert In Your Own Backyard*—16 pp., 7¢ each in quantities over 25. Demonstrates the vital need for forest, soil and water conservation.
9. *Protecting Our Living Waters*—10 pp., illus., 3¢ each in quantities over 25. It describes the effect of polluted waters on our healthy recreation, wildlife and national livelihood and suggests ways of preserving pure water.
10. *Man On the Landscape*—Vernon Gill Carter, 129 pp., $1.50 per copy. This well illustrated book analyzes the maze of forces which make the landscape what it is, with emphasis on the treatment it has received from man.

Aids to Conservationist and Sportsmen's Clubs

1. *Suggestions for Organization of a Sportsmen's Club*—25 pp., 3¢ each in quantities over 25.
2. *Let's Build series*—John D. Bulger, 5¢ each in quantities over 5. A series of outlines for practical conservation project work. Illustrated.
   - a. Let's Build Brush Shelters for Fish, 4 pp.
   - b. Let's Build Log Dams, 4 pp.
   - c. Let's Build V-Dams, 4 pp.
   - d. Let's Work for Welcome Woodie Week, 8 pp.
   - e. Let's Give a Tithe for Trout, 4 pp.
   - f. Let's Plant Willows, 4 pp.
   - g. Let's Build Brush Shelters for Wildlife, 4 pp.
   - h. Let's Boxtrap Bunnies, 4 pp.
   - i. Let's Be a Snapper Trapper, 4 pp.

Miscellaneous Booklets

1. *A Desert in Your Own Backyard*—16 pp., 7¢ each in quantities over 25. Demonstrates the vital need for forest, soil and water conservation.
2. *List of State Trees, Birds and Flowers*—1¢ each in quantities over 25.
3. *Worms as Bait*, illlus., 8 pp., 2¢ each.
4. *Crickets as Bait*, illus., 8 pp., 2¢ each in quantities over 25.
5. *My Land and Your Land Series*—about 45 pp. each, 4 booklets, illustrated in color at $1.00 per set.

   Book 1. Would You Like to Have Lived When—? An interesting narrative account of the pioneers' treatment of the land and its wildlife, grades 3-5.

   Book 2. Raindrops and Muddy Rivers. A thorough treatment of water use and conservation and some of the problems that have resulted from its abuses, grades 4-6.

   Book 3. Plants and Animals Live Together. A discussion of animal and plant communities, some of their relationships to each other, and a few examples of programs designed to perpetuate them, grades 5-7.

   Book 4. Nature's Bank—The Soil. A description of the soil, its origin, value and treatment in various sections of the country, grades 6-8.
6. *True-To-Life Series*—Dr. R. W. Eschmeyer, about 50 pp. each, 10 books at 50¢ per booklet. A set of realistic stories including conservation methods about the various species, as follows:
   - a. Billy Bass.
   - b. Tommy Trout.
   - c. Freddy Fox Squirrel.
   - d. Bobby Bluegill.
   - e. Charley Cottontail.
   - f. Bob White.
   - g. Willie Whitetail.
   - h. Mac Mallard.
   - i. Woody Woodcock.
   - j. Al Alligator.

The Conservation Program of the National Wildlife Federation

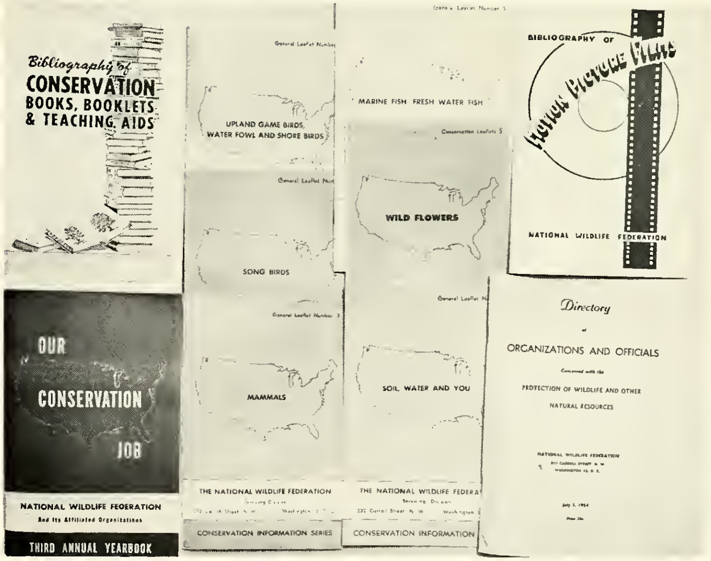
1. *Ask Me Another.* Brochure of questions and answers about the National Wildlife Federation. Free in reasonable quantities.
2. *How Your Wildlife Stamp Dollars Work for Conservation.* Brochure describing the use of funds for the conservation education program of the National Wildlife Federation. Free in reasonable quantities.
3. *Annual Yearbook — Our Conservation Job.* Includes data on beginning, history, aims, accomplishments and work of affilated organizations during the past year.

Conservation Directory

Directory of Organizations and Officials Concerned with the Protection of Wildlife and Other Natural Resources, 50 pp., 25¢ each.

Conservation Bibliography Series

1. *Bibliography of Motion Picture Films*—32 pp., 3¢ each in quantities over 25.
2. *Bibliography of Conservation Books*, Booklets and Teaching Aids—48 pp., 3¢ each in quantities over 25. ★


Bibliography of CONSERVATION BOOKS, BOOKLETS & TEACHING AIDS
OUR CONSERVATION JOB
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
And Its Affiliated Organizations
THIRD ANNUAL YEARBOOK
UPLAND GAME BIRDS
WATER FOWL AND SHORE BIRDS
SONG BIRDS
MAMMALS
THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
CONSERVATION INFORMATION SERIES
MARINE FISH FRESH WATER FISH
WILD FLOWERS
SOIL, WATER AND YOU
THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERA
CONSERVATION INFORMATION
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF Motion Picture Films
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
Directory
ORGANIZATIONS AND OFFICIALS
PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES

THE BOOK OF WILD PETS, by *Clifford B. Moore*. Published by Charles T. Branford Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1954. 6"x9", 553 pages. Price: $5.95.

This book is a selected reprint by the Branford Company, originally published in 1937 by G. P. Putnam's Sons. It is a veritable library of information to guide all who keep pets. My wife immediately put it to use finding out how to care for the chameleons our seven year old daughter captured. It tells how. Moore is director of the Forest Park Museum, Springfield, Massachusetts, and writes with authority. The book is divided into five well-illustrated sections: The Aquarium; Terraria And Their Inhabitants; Insects and Spiders As Pets; Mammals; and Birds.

* * * *

GONE HUNTIN', by *Charles Elliott*. Published by the Stackpole Company, Telegraph Press Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. 6"x9", 270 pages. Price: $5.00.

This is the companion book to Elliott's GONE FISHIN', reviewed here last year. Again, some of this book is made up of reprints of articles published in such magazines as OUTDOOR LIFE, SPORTS AFIELD, HUNTING AND FISHING, AND SAGA. Charles Elliott is still a master with words, and his vivid descriptions cause the reader to enjoy his outing around the continent almost as if he were there. This is a collection of big game hunting tales, covering bears, elk, moose, sheep, deer, javelina, antelope, lion, and bobcat. For my money, one of his best chapters is the last, which he calls "Don't Go Wrong". It's about the things you can do in preparing for a big game hunt in advance. Worth while reading.

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WILD FLOWERS AND HOW TO GROW THEM, by *Edwin F. Steffek*. Published by Crown Publishers, Inc., 419 Fourth Ave., New York. 6½"x9", 192 pages. Price: $3.95.

Contains detailed information on more than 350 species of wild flowers. It is rather unique in that the flowers are grouped according to soil preferences. Although I've never seen this method of grouping used it is a practical one. Mr. Steffek, who is associate editor of Popular Gardening Magazine, gives the readers the following information about the flowers he lists: Where to find them, how to identify them, how to transplant them, which may be used freely and which in moderation, and the blooming seasons for each. There are 100 illustrations, half of which are in full color.

* * * *

ANIMAL CONTROL IN FIELD, FARM, AND FOREST, by *W. Robert Eadie*. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York. 5½"x8½", 257 pages. Price: $3.75.

This volume brings together information that will be of value to many people as a guide to effective control of destructive animals. Some which he covers are rabbits, squirrels, moles, bats, opossums, rats, mice, foxes, and bobcats. The control measures are given in detail. Personally having a mouse problem in my house, I checked that chapter carefully. I found first that the coverage was divided into two chapters, one on Introduced Rats and Mice and another on Native Rats and Mice. Coming on down to House Mice, I found information on: Identification and habits; Economic Status; Control; and Natural Enemies. Coverage of each species is followed by a list of references and a bibliography.

* * * *

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF HUNTING and THE COMPLETE BOOK OF GUNS, both by *Larry Koller*. Published by The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 730 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis 7, Indiana. 6½"x9½". 144 pages each. Price: $2.75 each.

These are the latest in the Bobbs-Merrill series of Complete Books. They are attractively put together, and printed on good slick paper. Both are made up of perhaps 75% illustration material—art work and photographs, with the remainder being copy and tables of facts. The photographs are extremely good, having been gathered from sources all over the country.

* * * *

A FISHERMAN'S DIARY, by *William W. Heintz*. Published by Capitol Publishing Company, Inc., Irving-on-Hudson, New York. 5"x8½".

A book in which to record your fishing trips. It has space for 31 outings, inviting you to write down such information as date, weather, place, guide, boat, kind of fishing, lures or bait, water conditions, fishing companions, catch, and incidents or pictures. On each facing page is a cartoon about fishing.

* * * *

AMERICAN GAME BIRDS, by *Frank C. Edminster*. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, 597 Fifth Avenue, New York. 8½"x11", 490 pages. Price: $12.50

A separate chapter of this book is devoted to each game bird species. This is a very fine publication, giving complete coverage to each bird. For instance, in the chapter on the bobwhite quail we find these headings: Origin and Classification, History of the Bobwhite, Geographic Range, Description, Importance As a Game Bird, Habits of the Bobwhite, The Shelter Requirements of the Bobwhite, Bobwhite Quail Foods, The Effects of Weather and Climate on Habits and Numbers; Predation, Diseases, and Parasites; Man's Relation to the Bobwhite; Reproduction and Populations; and the Management of the Bobwhite Quail. ★

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. W. B. Bowers at Pineville, Louisiana, on December 10, 1954. For 10 years Mr. Bowers was a Waste Disposal Inspector with the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

Sportsmen's Calendar

For January and February

COOTS: Closes January 10. Bag and possession limit 10. Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

DOVES: Closes January 10. Limit 8 per day or in possession. Shooting hours: Noon until sunset.

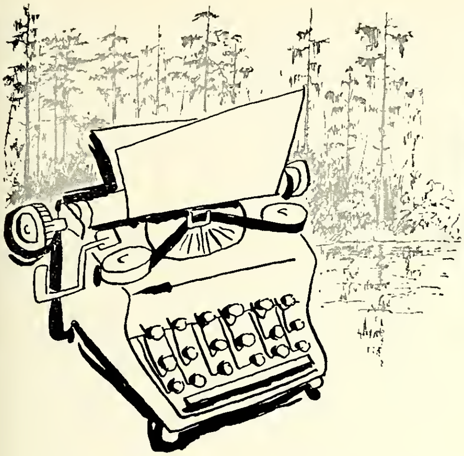
DUCKS AND GEESE: Closes January 10. Duck limit 4 per day, 8 in possession. No open season on wood ducks. Goose limit 5 per day or in possession, including not more than two Canada, two white-fronted, or one of each. Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

QUAIL: Closes February 15. Bag limit 10, possession limit 20.

RABBITS: Closes January 31. Limit 5 per day.

SNIPE: Closes January 7. Bag and possession limit 8.

WOODCOCK: Closes January 10. Bag limit 4, possession limit 8. Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. ★



Bayou Browsing

In the November issue of the CONSERVATIONIST we began a series of articles designed to bring you up to date on the conservation organizations around this country. First was on the Wildlife Management Institute, followed last month by one on the National Wildlife Federation. We'll continue these until we can't think of any more. On tap are stories about the Izaak Walton League, National Audubon Society, Outdoor Writers Association of America, Wildlife Society, and others. We also hope to include in this series organizations not directly concerned with wildlife but whose activities do affect fish and game. Examples of these would be the Louisiana Forestry Association, Department of Public Works, and U.S. Corps of Engineers. It would benefit us all to know more about the purposes, problems, and workings of these groups.

* * * *

If I wuz a fire raiser, and wuz going to raise a fire, methinks I'd let my nefarious activities coincide with the opening of some hunting season. And I think a lot of them did just that during last month's flareups. It gets the job done, and a lot of the blame is sure to fall on the hunters. Oh, you don't know what a fire raiser is? That's a guy, or gal, who likes to set the woods on fire and see them burn—for one reason or another. During the last outbreak it was suggested that hunters were setting the fires to drive the deer into the open. If that was the case, then my deer hunting education has been sadly neglected. I've never seen that done nor heard of it being done.

There were undoubtedly some hunter-caused fires, and there will be in the future. I think the greater part of these were warming fires which were left suddenly when game appeared. More care is needed, and it's up to you. Your hunting is at stake.

* * * *

Six boats, operating out of Pensacola, Florida, and Pascagoula, Mississippi, have begun fishing tuna in the Gulf commercially (story on page 14). Until now they have sold their catch to freight boats which take the tuna to canneries in Cuba. The price on our Gulf coast is $250 a ton, but the boats get $350 a ton in Cuba. One large concern in New Orleans which has national distribution outlets has indicated that they will begin to process and can Gulf tuna when they know they can get enough fish to operate at least six months out of the year. One of the Pascagoula boats took 4,000 pounds on one set in November, which is a good indication to say the least.

* * * *

Grand Isle charter boat captain Bob Mitcheltree tells us that he is looking for parties who are interested in exploring the deep water sport fishing possibilities off our coast. His new boat, designed especially with marlin, tuna, and sailfish in mind, should be ready for use by March. It's a 45-foot, twin-diesel built on a lugger type hull, and will be equipped with outriggers, flying bridge, top controls, and sleeping accommodations for five. Other captains who have expressed interest in this kind of fishing are Jay Sternberg and Angelo Adams. We'll take a poll and carry full information as to all boats which plan to take a stab at the big fellows this year.

* * * *

Before the December issue even hits the mails, let me answer the letters I'm sure to get about our Christmas cover. We used XMAS instead of CHRISTMAS because I had only two boxes of shells. As far as I'm concerned, it matters not whether you spell it or read it CHRISTMAS or XMAS—it's how you feel it that counts. For the record, Christ is a real part of our Christmas.

* * * *

Quite a few Louisiana duck callers represented the Pelican State at the World Duck Calling Championship held in Stuttgart, Arkansas, in December. Noah Schexnider, the 1954 Louisiana State Champion, took third place. The concensus of opinion among the Louisiana participants was that our boys failed to "do as the Romans do"—when in Stuttgart, Arkansas. There's a decided difference in the calling technique of the two states, and the Arkansas panel of judges included no "cajuns."

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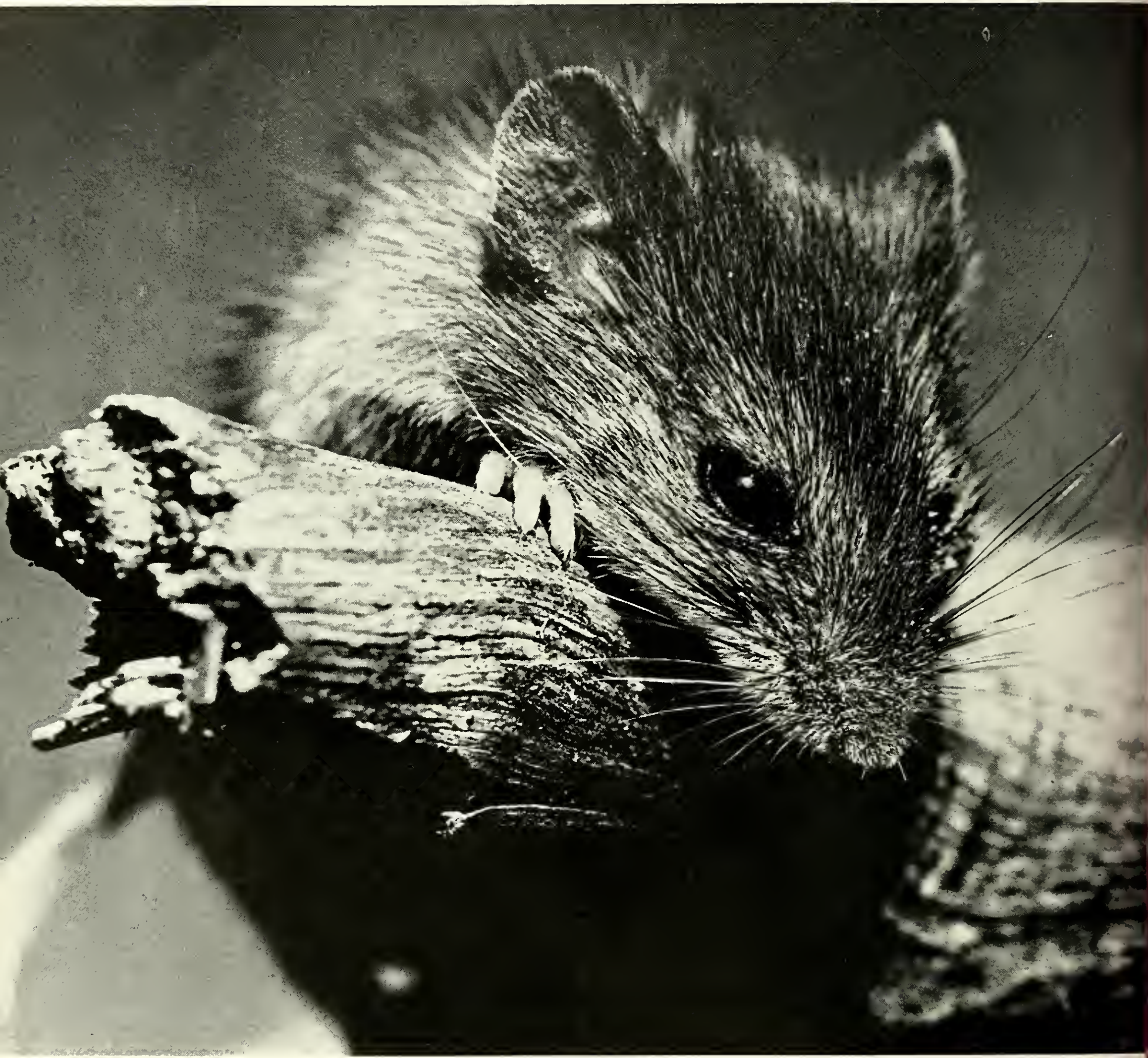
One of our callers did get to call ducks for a few celebrities from Hollywood—Andy Devine, Robert Taylor, and Howard Hill. Hill was making a movie of hunting with the bow and arrow, and killed four mallards with eight shots over the decoys that morning.

—C.H.G.



Portrait of a common denizen of Louisiana forests, the Cotton Rat (Sigmodon hispidus), **one of the personalities involved in a current survey of the furred animals of the state, a project sponsored by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission in collaboration with the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science.**

—Photo by Britt.